



Print for Planning commissioners

Diane O'Neil

to:

rhedges

12/03/2015 09:37 PM

Hide Details

From: Diane O'Neil <dianegoneil@mac.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Mr. Topping, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Campbell,

Beautiful Minds: Facts, not fear

Would you or those living near the proposed mental health facility fear having Ted Turner, Carrie Fisher, Brooke Shields, Mike Wallace, Jane Pauley, Patty Duke, or Buzz Aldrin as their neighbors? Would the likes of Abe Lincoln, Beethoven, Van Gogh, Isacc Newton, Winston Churchill, John Nash, Ernst Hemingway, and Emily Dickinson not be allowed to walk the streets or be near local schools? These and many other famous people suffered with mental illnesses and spoke publicly or wrote about their

diseases. Many stated they recovered with medication and therapy. One stated, "If we're lucky, the next generation won't drag around that personal stigma," So for you on the SLO Planning Commission, will you continue the stigma of mental illness yet in 2015 by turning down the opportunity for the county to have a state of the art hospital right in our backyard near hospitals and physicians in the perfect area? The Billigs have the foresight and opportunity to do that for thousands in our community and county. This will make a difference for the 1 in 4 people, including possibly your relative or neighbor, that might be affected by a chemical imbalance of the brain sometime in their life time. No one else has considered doing this! This could be a reality in two years instead of ten or twenty or not at all.

I have been the parent of 2 adult children with mental illness for 35 years now. I personally visited my son over 200 times in mental institutions in the Pasadena area when he suffered from 27 bi-polar episodes over 23 years. Before he became ill, we didn't know that our local Pasadena and Arcadia hospitals provided mental health hospitalization in very up-scale neighborhoods. Since he was less than 20 minutes away when recovering, we were fortunate that we could visit him nightly, always bringing a smile to his face, knowing that we loved and cared for him. The same was true for all the other patients who welcomed the sight of family members. He graduated with honors from high school, received athlete of the year with highest GPA, and was a National Merit Finalist. He received a degree from UCLA with many episodes when stressed during

finals, but he did it. Unfortunately, he died of a heart attack at 40. My husband is an Aeronautical Engineer and I was an English teacher. We are strong NAMI advocates and know many who suffer with mental illness. NAMI provides family support groups, 12 week Family to Family classes, Parents and Teachers as Allies and In Our Own Voice to families and schools all over SLO County. When a local therapist asked my AAUW group how many had family members with bi-polar disorder, over 60 hands flew in the air. Mental illnesses occur at similar rates around the world, in every culture, and in all socio-economic groups. Early identification and effective intervention is the key to successfully treating the disorder and preventing future disability. People do recover with medication and therapy. Also, family support is an important key. **YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COULD IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE BY VOTING YES TO BUILD THIS FACILITY.** Please do so.

With much gratitude,
Diane O'Neil

626-664-4089



Fw: Behavioral Health Hospital
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges
Cc: Donna Hernandez

12/04/2015 10:22 AM

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/04/2015 10:22 AM -----

From: Robin McElroy <robinmc5050@gmail.com>
To: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/04/2015 09:56 AM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Unfortunately stigma is alive and well against those living with mental illnesses in our county. The furor against the development of a Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton bears this out. What people do not realize is that mental illnesses affect many of us and those we love. And the need for services and treatment centers is imperative to help people get well.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that one in four adults and one in 12 children are affected by mental illness at any time. Do the math and you will find that the 16 beds we have in our county to serve those in the acute phase of mental illness are woefully inadequate. People can recover from mental illness but only if they receive treatment during the times they are acutely ill. It is also important to have the support of family and friends in their community while ill.

The 96-bed behavioral health hospital proposed near Twin Cities Hospital in Templeton will allow children, adolescents, adults and seniors to receive the treatment they need within their own county. Wrap around mental health services will be available to them when they go home to their nearby communities.

It seems like a no-brainer. The owner/developer is committed to building this much needed hospital saving our county the expense of purchasing and building a similar hospital. The location is within a greater complex of medical resources. Our loved ones will be able to get the help they need within their own county.

The need is great. The time is now. Please do what you can to help this hospital be constructed.

Sincerely,

Robin McElroy

1108 Pacific Boulevard, Apt. 2

Oceano, CA 93445

(805) 459 9748

robinmc5050@gmail.com



Billig
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges
Cc: Donna Hernandez

12/04/2015 08:56 AM

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/04/2015 08:53 AM -----

From: Diane O'Neil <dianegoneil@mac.com>
To: Hhipps@Co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/03/2015 09:35 PM
Subject: Print for Planning commissioners

Dear Mr. Topping, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Campbell,

Beautiful Minds: Facts, not fear

Would you or those living near the proposed mental health facility fear having Ted Turner, Carrie Fisher, Brooke Shields, Mike Wallace, Jane Pauley, Patty Duke, or Buzz Aldrin as their neighbors? Would the likes of Abe Lincoln, Beethoven, Van Gogh, Isacc Newton, Winston Churchill, John Nash, Ernst Hemingway, and Emily Dickinson not be allowed to walk the streets or be near local schools? These and many other famous people suffered with mental illnesses and spoke publicly or wrote about their diseases. Many stated they recovered with medication and therapy. One stated, "If we're lucky, the next generation won't drag around that personal stigma," So for you on the SLO Planning Commission, will you continue the stigma of mental illness yet in 2015 by turning down the opportunity for the county to have a state of the art hospital right in our backyard near hospitals and physicians in the perfect area? The Billigs have the foresight and opportunity to do that for thousands in our community and county. This will make a difference for the 1 in 4 people, including possibly your relative or neighbor, that might

be affected by a chemical imbalance of the brain sometime in their life time. No one else has considered doing this! This could be a reality in two years instead of ten or twenty or not at all.

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With much gratitude,
Diane O'Neil
626-664-4089

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/04/2015 08:53 AM -----

From: Diane O'Neil <dianegoneil@mac.com>
To: Hhipps@Co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/03/2015 10:31 PM
Subject: Letter to Commissioners re mental health hospital

Dear Ms. Phipps,

Would you please print copies of my letter below and give one to each of the Planning Commissioners. Thank you.

Diane O'Neil
Atascadero

P.S., In my previous message I inadvertently omitted Mr. Irving. That omission is now corrected.

Dear Mr. Irving, Mr. Topping, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Campbell,

Beautiful Minds: Facts, not fear

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Gogh, Isacc Newton, Winston Churchill, John Nash, Ernst Hemingway, and Emily Dickinson not be allowed to walk the streets or be near local schools? These and many other famous people suffered with mental illnesses and spoke publicly or wrote

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With much gratitude,

Diane O'Neil
Atascadero
805-460-9031



Fw: Concerned Citizen against Psychiatric facility in Templeton

Debbie Arnold to: Holly Phipps, Ramona Hedges

12/04/2015 11:24 AM

Sent by: **Jennifer Caffee**

Debbie Arnold

Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 12/04/2015 11:24 AM -----

From: Gwen Mecum Hunt <Gwen@americanserviceco.com>
To: info@intempleton.com, dianegoneil@mac.com, hhipps@co.slo.ca.us, rhedges@co.slo.ca.us, dclarue_air@yahoo.com, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, Nanette@soaringeaglepress.com
Date: 11/23/2015 07:42 AM
Subject: Concerned Citizen against Psychiatric facility in Templeton

This email was sent previously to some of those listed above . We want to formally go on record as opposing this facility .

To Whom it may concern :

We would like to take this opportunity to express our concern for the proposal of a Psychiatric Health Facility in the heart of our small town of Templeton .

We have lived here for over 35 years and have seen this town grow into a marvelous and safe place to live. Sought by many as the ideal place to live which includes many health care doctors, health facilities, hospital, and a great school district with a wonderful reputation , for our children to attend .

We have many rentals here in Templeton , one of which is directly behind the current hospital . This proposed facility would be a detriment to the safety and well -being of our children , our homeowners, and the large number of renters that reside in this little town .

Please note our objection to this facility being in such close proximity to all of the above .

Sincerely,

Gwen and Harvey Hunt

Gwen and Harvey Hunt

P.O. Box 66

Templeton, CA 93465-0066

We are concerned citizens who live in Templeton, and we have numerous concerns regarding the proposed 91 bed Psychiatric facility.

1. We do not have the infrastructure necessary to support this facility. We do not have the necessary law enforcement presence or fire department capabilities to handle the situations which will arise from construction of this facility.
2. We do not have the necessary support for patients once they are released from the facility, such as a homeless shelter, a County Behavioral Health Center and all other ancillary services.
3. There will be no outpatient services at this facility. Unfortunately, mental illness is not cured in nine days, the average length of stay. The former head of Atascadero State Hospital, John DeMorales, stated that when outpatient services at ASH were discontinued, the rate of recidivism went from 5 to 65 percent.
4. The operator, Mark E. Schneider, CEO of Vizion Health has told us that they will not be taking 5150 patients in the hospital. However, once they see their occupancy is well below breakeven levels, that could change in a heartbeat. Ann Robin, SLO County Behavioral Health Administrator wants this facility to handle the overflow from the 16 bed PHF unit in SLO. Where will the patients go when they are discharged? Psychiatrists are so busy, many patients will not be seen for more than a month after discharge. Many of these people will not go back to where they came from. A number of them will be homeless wandering the streets.
5. Based on County mental health statistics, we send approximately 400 people per year out of the County for mental health care. Using an average stay of nine days, that is 3600 bed days per year. That will account for 10 beds per year. How are the other 81 beds to be filled?
6. Some of the unintended consequences of building the facility may be very costly to the County. Bringing in people from other parts of the state will result in an increased homeless population as evidenced in Ventura. A substantial increased cost to the Templeton School District will occur as the patients up to 18 have to be schooled. Approximately 40 percent of the proposed beds are for school age children. There will be a cost of increased police and fire protection.

We need a 15 bed facility for the County, not 91. The facility should probably be located in San Luis where most of the population and necessary Mental Health services for the County are housed.

Fred and Freda Russell



FW: Contact Us (response #2964)
Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

12/04/2015 11:29 AM

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St. D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/04/2015 11:29:17 AM-----

----- Original Message -----

From : Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO
To : BOS_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us
Cc :
Sent on : 12/04 09:33:21 AM PST
Subject : Fw: Contact Us (response #2964)

Forwarding it on to all

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 12/04/2015 09:33 AM -----

From: ☐ "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: ☐ "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: ☐ 12/04/2015 09:06 AM
Subject: ☐ Contact Us (response #2964)

Contact Us (response #2964)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:12/4/2015 9:06:19 AM

Survey Response

Name :
Roger Bowsky

Telephone Number:
714.388.7887

Email address:
r.bowsky@live.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):

RE: Opposing Proposed Psychiatric Facility in Templeton
because of TRAFFIC SAFETY AND CONGESTION on Las Tablas with new Las Tablas
Village development.

The planning department has already approved the Las Tablas Village (Las Tablas Road & Bennet Way). This development has a grocery store, pharmacy, 9 retail or restaurants spaces, 120 rooms Hotel, and three major office building. Because the traffic is going to be so heavy on Las Tablas Road, the Planning Department is restricted traffic to no left turns onto Las Tablas (going east toward the freeway). All traffic will be redirected on to a residential street (Bennet Way) that they can takes them back to Las Tablas Road so they can may a left turn. Also a second concern I have is that people will be making a right turn onto Las Tablas road and going up toward the Hospital and making U-turns. This will only add to the congestion on Las Tablas road

Also any given morning Las Tablas Road is now starting to back onto the freeway because congestion of on Las Tablas Road.

If the Psychiatric Facility has 96 patients that will add another 150+ trip up Las Tablas a day with family and support people.

I would support a 15 bed Psychiatric Facility only.



For Billig
Holly Phipps to: Ramona Hedges
Cc: Donna Hernandez

12/03/2015 10:52 AM

Holly Phipps, MCRP
North County & Winery Planner



976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408
805-781-1162
<http://www.sloplanning.org>

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/03/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: Gene Fambrini <genefambrini@gmail.com>
To: hhipps@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/03/2015 09:30 AM
Subject: Mental Help Clinic

We strongly encourage you to approve the building of a Mental Health Facility in SLO. We have all heard about what a problem mental health is in our country. Our experience is first hand. We have a daughter who attempted suicide several years ago and a Mental Health Clinic in Ventura really saved her life. She is now on medication and has regular appts. with a local doctor because she is now covered by Medical. We really do not think she would be with us today without the help she got from the clinic. Gene Fambrini

----- Forwarded by Holly Phipps/Planning/COSLO on 12/03/2015 10:52 AM -----

From: "Becker, Darren" <Darren.Becker@lubrizol.com>
To: "Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/03/2015 10:35 AM
Subject: Behavioral Health Hospital in Templeton

San Luis Obispo County Planning Department
976 Osos Street #200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
Att: Holly Phipps, Room 300
Hhipps@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Ms. Phipps,

We are very fortunate to have a state of the art memory care facility and behavioral health hospital proposed for our county. I hope that you will focus on all of the main positive reasons to approve this project: The help that it will give to people of all ages in crisis; the ability of patients to stay close to home and loved ones while undergoing treatment; the new mental health professionals to be recruited to our county; the jobs in the two facilities; and the huge economic impact to the county. This looks like a “win-win” situation for everyone. I’m asking you to support this project. We need it.

Sincerely,

Darren J. Becker

3425 Catalina Place

Paso Robles, CA 93446

Office: (805) 226-3119

Cell: (281) 614-9489

Darren.Becker@Lubrizol.com



Opposition to proposed Psych Hospital location

Laurie Colton

to:

RHedges

12/07/2015 11:30 AM

Hide Details

From: Laurie Colton <laurie.colton6@gmail.com>

To: RHedges@co.slo.ca.us

Dear Mr. Hedges and members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Psych Hospital in Templeton.

First, and foremost, is the possible safety issues it will present for my home community. Sheriff jurisdiction is spread over quite a large area. Does our county have a plan and budget to increase peace keeping in the Hospital and surrounding areas? I would encourage you to take a look at the facility in Ventura, how they run their facility and how it has affected their community.

Second is the town's infrastructure. Templeton is very much a "bedroom community" with the major service being Twin Cities Hospital. There are no support services. The Templeton Fire Department is volunteer staffed with the full time staffing issue just recently being discussed to increase from one

person to two.

In this same heading is traffic. There are basically two major roads that traverse Templeton; Las Tablas and Vineyard. The proposed building site could put a large strain on residents, medical service users/patients and employees alike. The proximity of the proposed Psych Hospital to the main artery road, Las Tablas, and the fact that the surrounding lots are already developed, seems to point to a conclusion that road closures or detours and delays will be likely.

This leads me to the greater community that will be affected. Will the county impose the developer to provide another entry to Twin Cities Emergency Room during construction? No compromise should be made with regards to our emergency services.

Third is community common areas. There are several parks that are used by the community for events such as Farmers' Market, Holiday celebrations, and youth sports. These areas need to be preserved and kept safe. I bring up this point because it was mentioned that the county would like to have another facility to process involuntary mental health patients, ie 5150's. This school district does not have the budget for bus transportation of our school age children to their schools. Many walk. Please keep their safety in mind when looking at this facility.

To conclude, this project presents with a developer and a shell company that has never run a hospital business before. They are a start-up. There are no doctors or hospital companies that are running this business. The developer will not be affected by any costs the county may incur in the future in regards to the running of this business (he lives in another county).

Our county residents will be affected in many ways by the building of this type of facility, whether they live in Templeton or in the San Luis Obispo County. Has anyone considered any of the other lots for sale in the county for a Psychiatric Care Facility that could better serve our population?

Please, take time to study this issue in further detail before approving permits for a building.

Sincerely,

Laurie Colton
Templeton resident



County File Number: SUB2013-00052

Jack Robison

to:

RHedges

12/06/2015 08:56 PM

Hide Details

From: Jack Robison <jrobison93442@gmail.com>

To: RHedges@co.slo.ca.us

Please respond to jrobison@calpoly.edu

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission

RE: Written Testimony in support of the application for Behavioral Health Hospital

We strongly support the application for a private mental health facility in Templeton. The county has not had the advantage of a private facility since French Hospital closed the ward they maintained until the late 1990's. We can personally testify to the hardships the loss of such a facility has caused. We have twice had to transport our son for several hours by personal vehicle in order for him to be treated in a mental health hospital in Ventura county. Transportation of a person in a manic state imposes a serious hardship on both the patient and their family. The family therapy that is normally recommended as part of treatment is also difficult to achieve when great distances are involved.

It is also clear to us that the lack of a local facility causes local residents who are in need of treatment to forgo that treatment when they must leave their loved ones and familiar towns.

The creation of a local facility would therefore not only help alleviate current hardships but result in better and perhaps earlier treatment of county residents. If this application is not approved it is unclear how much time will pass and how many lives will be negatively affected before another facility is proposed. We therefore urge the planning commission to approve the current application.

John and Carolyn Robison
Morro Bay, CA 93442



Templeton psych unit proposal

Jim Cartland

to:

rhedges, fmecham, darnold, bgibson, lcompton, ahill

12/04/2015 04:02 PM

Hide Details

From: Jim Cartland <jpcartland@gmail.com> Sort List...

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us,
darnold@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us,
ahill@co.slo.ca.us

We realize that there is a shortage of mental health care, inpatient and outpatient, in the county and that the county could utilize a 15-20 bed facility to handle county needs. Such a facility would optimally be placed in a location that would provide best access for patients, be convenient for their families and have post discharge care available. Such a facility should be built and run by personnel that are experienced in mental health care and mental health care facilities.

The proposed facility in Templeton plans for 91 beds. This far exceeds the local need and would require importation of mentally ill patients from around the state or country. Keep in mind that these patients are ill enough to require hospitalization and would likely have schizophrenia, bipolar disorders or

combination of these mental illnesses. The average hospital stay is planned at 9-10 days, coincidentally(?) the limit of Obamacare mandates for mental illness insurance coverage. 9-10 days is not adequate to treat these conditions as these are chronic illnesses. These illnesses are not like appendicitis that can be treated and discharged in a predictable manner.

The proposed facility would be an "open" facility. This means that patients can come and go as they please. They are mentally ill which by definition means that they make poor decisions and do not think clearly. Otherwise they would not need hospitalization. Patients would be free to come and go as they please and would do so wandering into the surrounding residential community (41 condos are being built immediately next door). This is a small community therefor citizens would have a relatively higher risk of adverse encounters. There would be no requirement that patients return home after discharge. Our experiences, as part of our medical training in psychiatric inpatient units, are that discharged patients and patients that leave against medical advice tend to congregate around these facilities. Many are or become homeless.

The proposed facility plans to have approximately 50% of its beds slated for pediatric use. The Templeton Unified School District would be required to provide individual teaching plans and teachers for these students (estimated 1800 students/year with 9-10 day stays). This would financially and logistically overwhelm our local school district.

The proposed facility would be a bad idea for our community even if the corporation planning and running the facility was experienced and excellent. The Vizion "corporation" planning to build the facility is a shell corporation with no experience. This greatly increases the already high risk to our community. "Promises" and "intents" that they have stated or will state to assuage our concerns are not reliable.

We are concerned that allowing such a facility in our community would result in changes that could not be recoverable. Templeton is a great community that we would like preserved. Please do not allow this potentially disastrous facility to be built.

Sincerely,

James P. Cartland, MD

Pamela M. Cartland, MD



Planning Commission Contact Form (response #367)

Internet Webmaster

to:

planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us

12/07/2015 11:30 AM

Hide Details

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>

To: "planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us"

<planningcommission@co.slo.ca.us>

Planning Commission Contact Form (response #367)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	Planning Commission Contact Form
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/staff/PCForm.htm
Submission Time/Date:	12/7/2015 11:29:43 AM

Survey Response

Name	Marie Roth
Contact Information (Phone Number, Email, etc.)	805-712-5963 mariealise@outlook.com
	Greetings planners and officials of SLO County, Regarding the proposed 91 bed acute care mental health facility proposed for the community of Templeton, I am in opposition to this particular project and I will do my best

Question
or
Comment

within three minutes to illustrate why. When my daughter was 18, she had a situation where the mobile crisis unit had to take her from Templeton to SLO County Mental Health. Once processed at the facility located at the old General Hospital I was informed that because she was insured she would have to go to a private provider. Of course it is no secret that there are none available in SLO County: Bakersfield or Ventura are the closest choices. Imagine my anxiety level. So I ask you, even if 6 to 7, private pay, in-county patients (about 400 per year) are to be transported to this proposed facility in Templeton on any given weekend....then who will be occupying those other 84 beds per week? And remember this is a psych treatment facility doing nothing for Drug, alcohol, medical, homeless or outpatient services for members of our own community. It was my experience that the majority of 5150's, happening mostly on the weekends, are transient or college aged students with an underlying drug or alcohol problem. This facility will do nothing to help them. Side note- SLO County has a grave shortage of psychiatrists, there are NONE in Templeton. There is the potential for 3200 people from outside SLO county to be coming to the little town of Templeton for psychiatric treatment. School aged children (1800 of the 3200 total) from outside the county will require Templeton School District provide the educational needs for these kids!? It can't even provide bus service for its current students! How in the world will they be able to meet these requirements without placing a burden upon the students and families who already pay taxes to support THEIR OWN community? "We know in working with these children and their family members (that) it's very difficult for families to travel to have to go see them, or figure out how to keep their continued care with their primary care physician here," said Jill Bolster-White, executive director of the nonprofit Transitions Mental Health Association in San Luis Obispo.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/investigations/article39097128.html>

Let's look at this in reverse— It is a burden to make families have to travel long distances while dealing with these types of situations. Why would we make families travel to Templeton from Salinas, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara ,Ventura and possibly beyond? If I would have had to travel to Bakersfield or Ventura it would have been a financial & mental disaster for my family. I agree that it is best to keep patients near their place of origin. We need to take care of our own! Additionally, SLO Sheriff states this will cause the need for additional law enforcement and staffing....again more burden to the community of Templeton in the form of taxpayer\$\$ as well as the compromised security of their community. SLO County representatives as well as residents, I challenge you to meet the needs of our own community members, not those of other counties. **Support the efforts of Transitions Mental Health in their endeavor to open a care facility in SLO where resources abound. **Why is General Hospital not considered as a place for this type of facility? If your answer is that it's isn't profitable....then let's take another look at what is being proposed in Templeton, how will that be any more profitable? It won't, but that isn't the point. The owner of this property is seemly becoming more desperate as time goes on to put anything there even if it compromises the residential community that surrounds it. It's better suited for an ice skating rink than a psych facility. This proposal makes zero sense for small community of Templeton; I urge this

commission to deny the project of a Mental Health Facility operated by Vizion health LLC, in its entirety. 3 minutes are up....but there's more! *Vizion Health LLC does not have the experience necessary to operate this facility. This statement from the Tribune is truly ridiculous. "Mark's approach is not like the biggies in the country but a very local approach," Melanie Billig said. "Harvey and I don't want a larger corporation — not cookie-cutter like everything else in the country but something that fits the need for SLO County. We tried to find an operator who cares about something like that." Vizion Health, first incorporated in 2011 in Louisiana, where Schneider lives, doesn't have any clients yet, Schneider confirmed." How in the heck can they make a statement like this if he has NO CLIENTS??? Since 2011 no less!? And just because they have "tried" to find a corporation that cares about our community does not mean they "have" found it. Read more here: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article39719004.html#storylink=cpy>

*This facility will do NOTHING to help solve the problem of the shortage of Mental Health Care Professionals in our county. *This type facility is unprecedented & untested anywhere in the country. *With the imposition of Affordable Health Care Act I propose that SLO County consider making changes to the current County Mental Health Administration to be able to accept AHC insurance since all Americans are now mandated to have coverage according to the law. Would the AHC in essence force the change in the county system due to every American having health care? Let's ask that question. Again, I ask you to consider helping the needs of our local residents before we invite over 3200 outside residents to SLO County for mental health treatment. Respectfully submitted, Marie Roth, 4435 S. El Pomar, Templeton CA



Fw: 91 bed psyche facility
Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

12/07/2015 10:47 AM

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 10:47 AM -----

From: "Colton, Kevin F. MD" <drkcolton@mdvip.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, ", " <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/07/2015 09:48 AM
Subject: 91 bed psyche facility

Hey Frank, just a quick note to let you know that I and many others are thinking that any county that takes in more mentally ill patients than they are already responsible for are not thinking straight. The unseen financial burden resulting from the mentally ill increase in our county will probably outweigh the money taken in by the facility. Check out what happened to Ventura with their increase in facilities. They are probably wishing they were no longer in the psychiatric tourism business. Please study this before just saying yes to Billig. Thank you for reading this. Kevin Colton MD



Fw: 91 bed psyche facility

Debbie Arnold to: Ramona Hedges, Holly Phipps

Sent by: Jennifer Caffee

12/07/2015 11:17 AM

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 11:16 AM -----

From: "Colton, Kevin F. MD" <drkcolton@mdvip.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, ", " <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/07/2015 09:48 AM
Subject: 91 bed psyche facility

Hey Frank, just a quick note to let you know that I and many others are thinking that any county that takes in more mentally ill patients than they are already responsible for are not thinking straight. The unseen financial burden resulting from the mentally ill increase in our county will probably outweigh the money taken in by the facility. Check out what happened to Ventura with their increase in facilities. They are probably wishing they were no longer in the psychiatric tourism business. Please study this before just saying yes to Billig. Thank you for reading this. Kevin Colton MD

We are concerned citizens who live in Templeton, and we have numerous concerns regarding the proposed 91 bed Psychiatric facility.

1. We do not have the infrastructure necessary to support this facility. We do not have the necessary law enforcement presence or fire department capabilities to handle the situations which will arise from construction of this facility.
2. We do not have the necessary support for patients once they are released from the facility, such as a homeless shelter, a County Behavioral Health Center and all other ancillary services.
3. There will be no outpatient services at this facility. Unfortunately, mental illness is not cured in nine days, the average length of stay. The former head of Atascadero State Hospital, John DeMorales, stated that when outpatient services at ASH were discontinued, the rate of recidivism went from 5 to 65 percent.
4. The operator, Mark E. Schneider, CEO of Vizion Health has told us that they will not be taking 5150 patients in the hospital. However, once they see their occupancy is well below breakeven levels, that could change in a heartbeat. Ann Robin, SLO County Behavioral Health Administrator wants this facility to handle the overflow from the 16 bed PHF unit in SLO. Where will the patients go when they are discharged? Psychiatrists are so busy, many patients will not be seen for more than a month after discharge. Many of these people will not go back to where they came from. A number of them will be homeless wandering the streets.
5. Based on County mental health statistics, we send approximately 400 people per year out of the County for mental health care. Using an average stay of nine days, that is 3600 bed days per year. That will account for 10 beds per year. How are the other 81 beds to be filled?
6. Some of the unintended consequences of building the facility may be very costly to the County. Bringing in people from other parts of the state will result in an increased homeless population as evidenced in Ventura. A substantial increased cost to the Templeton School District will occur as the patients up to 18 have to be schooled. Approximately 40 percent of the proposed beds are for school age children. There will be a cost of increased police and fire protection.

We need a 15 bed facility for the County, not 91. The facility should probably be located in San Luis where most of the population and necessary Mental Health services for the County are housed.

Fred and Freda Russell



Fw: Contact Us (response #2964)
Jennifer Caffee to: Holly Phipps, Ramona Hedges

12/04/2015 02:19 PM

Jennifer Caffee
Legislative Assistant
5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold
San Luis Obispo County
(805) 781-4339/FAX (805) 781-1350

----- Forwarded by Jennifer Caffee/BOS/COSLO on 12/04/2015 02:19 PM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO
To: BOS_Legislative Assistants@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/04/2015 09:33 AM
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2964)
Sent by: Juliane Hendricks

Forwarding it on to all

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 12/04/2015 09:33 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/04/2015 09:06 AM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2964)

Contact Us (response #2964)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm>
Submission Time/Date:12/4/2015 9:06:19 AM

Survey Response

Name:
Roger Bowsky

Telephone Number:
714.388.7887

Email address:
r.bowsky@live.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):

RE: Opposing Proposed Psychiatric Facility in Templeton because of TRAFFIC SAFETY AND CONGESTION on Las Tablas with new Las Tablas Village development.

 The planning department has already approved the Las Tablas Village (Las Tablas Road & Bennet Way). This development has a grocery store, pharmacy, 9 retail or restaurants spaces, 120 rooms Hotel, and three major office building. Because the traffic is going to be so heavy on Las Tablas Road, the Planning Department is restricted traffic to no left turns onto Las Tablas (going east toward the freeway). All traffic will be redirected on to a residential street (Bennet Way) that they can takes them back to Las Tablas Road so they can may a left turn. Also a second concern I have is that people will be making a right turn onto Las Tablas road and going up toward the Hospital and making U-turns. This will only add to the congestion on Las Tablas road

Also any given morning Las Tablas Road is now starting to back onto the freeway because congestion of on Las Tablas Road.

If the Psychiatric Facility has 96 patients that will add another 150+ trip up Las Tablas a day with family and support people.

I would support a 15 bed Psychiatric Facility only.



Fw: Contact Us (response #2965)
Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

12/07/2015 10:01 AM

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St., D430
San Luis Obispo CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 10:01 AM -----

From: Board of Supervisors/BOS/COSLO
To: BOS_Legislative Assistants
Date: 12/07/2015 07:55 AM
Subject: Fw: Contact Us (response #2965)
Sent by: Juliane Hendricks

Forwarding this to everyone. Have a great day.

Thank you

Juliane D Hendricks

----- Forwarded by Juliane Hendricks/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 07:54 AM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us" <BoardOfSups@co.slo.ca.us>,
Date: 12/05/2015 08:41 AM
Subject: Contact Us (response #2965)

Contact Us (response #2965)

Survey Information

Site:County of SLO
Page Title:Contact Us
URL:http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/BOSContactUs.htm
Submission Time/Date:12/5/2015 8:40:17 AM

Survey Response

Name:
Bill Mundee

Telephone Number:
805-712-2782

Email address:
bmundee@yahoo.com

Comments or questions (8,192 characters max):
Re: Mental Health Facility in Templeton

Dear Board of Supervisors;

As a long-time Templeton and County resident, I am strongly opposed to the size and location of the newly proposed 91 bed facility being planned in Templeton. As a developer myself, I understand the desire of the owner to build such a large facility. More beds equals more revenue. In fact, I own a building currently being used as a mental health facility. It is in Sanger, CA, and it only has 15 beds. It is a very profitable business.

From what I've read, Vizion Health LLC is to operate this newly proposed facility, but with a little research, this company has been found to be just a shell company without any operational experience. So it seems that the owners/developers of this new facility, want to permit as large of a facility as possible. Once the beds are filled, they will sell this property immediately.

As a developer, I am OK with this in most cases. However, in this situation, the customers to visit this facility will mainly come from outside of our county, and it is not fair to put the burden of support on the citizens of Templeton. Most cities would object to having this type of facility in their backyard and I can understand that. It is bringing people with mental illness into their neighborhoods. Therefore, these facilities are very difficult to get permitted. Having said that, I also feel each city needs to take care of their own population. What I am in favor of, is a facility commensurate with the needs of this county and those individuals needing psychiatric help. Limit this facility to 15-20 beds. If the developers wish to build a larger facility to make it work economically, then move it to a larger city.

In conclusion, the size and scope of the facility is too great and only serves to benefit the owner/developer. Please review the scope of the project with the thought of how this project will benefit the citizens and taxpayers of Templeton.

Sincerely,

Bill Mundee



Dec. 10th Planning Commission Meeting

Jim Jones to: rhedges

12/04/2015 11:51 AM

1. Will the permit, as worded on page-4 of the Negative Declaration Report, prevent the hospital operators from accepting involuntary LPS patients?

If it does, what steps would be required by hospital management to change the permit to allow them to accept LPS involuntary commitment patients.

2. Has the lack of locally available outpatient treatment been considered in this project?

The local doctors I have spoken with report that there are almost none immediately available to treat patients locally released from the proposed hospital. They further report that many local psychiatric doctors are not taking additional patients and others report a two to three week wait for an appointment. Additionally, it has been reported that outpatient insurance will not include the majority of needed patients.

3. Does the distance from the proposed hospital to housing units meet acceptable county standards?

Distances from the proposed hospital to residential areas are approximately 1,000 feet to the west (Mockingbird Ln.), 500 feet to the north (Terebinth Ln.), 2500 feet to the east (Florence St.) and will border new houses ready to be constructed to the south.

4. Have the proposers of the hospital project submitted information regarding the number of parking spaces that will be dedicated for employee, patient and emergency services? Information provided on Page seven in the Negative Declaration is vague on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

James Jones
805-434-0245



Fwd: Mental Hospital Letter Writing Campaign

Carmelo Plateroti

to:

rhedges

12/07/2015 08:27 AM

Sent by:

cplateroti@gmail.com

Cc:

greggelli

Hide Details

From: Carmelo Plateroti <drplateroti@gmail.com>

To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us

Cc: greggelli@aol.com

Sent by: cplateroti@gmail.com

To: Planning Commission
976 Osos Street #200P, San Luis Obispo CA

Re: Mental Hospital Proposed Plans
Las Tablas rd., Templeton, CA 93465

Dear Planning Commission Staff,
Please consider the following concerns/issues with the proposed project.

1. Total number of patients needed to fully utilize this facility and the fact that 85% - 90% of patients will come from areas outside of SLO County.
2. Templeton School District responsibility. The promoters claim that one-half of the facility is designed to treat children and adolescents. That will result in 1,800 school age children a year going through the facility. EVEN THOUGH THIS IS A RIDICULOUS NUMBER IT IS WHAT THE PROMOTERS CLAIM

.

The Planning Dept. report erroneously states that the school district will be reimbursed by the operator (VIZION). This is false.

3. SLO Sheriffs Dept. The report erroneous states that the SLO Sheriff has no concerns regarding the facility. WRONG. A letter from the Sheriff states that this facility's operations will require additional staffing and services. The letter goes on to say that the North County Sheriff's operation is very under staffed.
4. The report concludes that the facility's operations will have no adverse effect on the community. The Planner, Holly Phipps, disclosed that the Planning Department performed no work or investigation to support their conclusions. She said that "they relied on the brief project description document provided by the Developer without any further review or investigation."
5. The developers have represented as set forth in the first few pages of the Negative Declaration document shown in Exhibit 7 of the Planning report that this will be a voluntary operation and will not accept criminally committed (5150) or other involuntary judicial committed patients. There needs to be a provision in the Use Permit restricting the operation to only voluntary

patients. There are no guarantees that any of the Developer claims will be honored without Use Permit restrictions.

6. The Planning report Attachment No. 7 on page 4 of 105 states that "A patient could ask to be discharged without a doctors consent." Voluntary "At Will" patients are free to leave at any time. If they are determined to be a possible 5150 or judicial hold individuals "The County Behavioral Health Department becomes the responsible agency" to take over such patients' care. The report fails to determine the costs of such referrals that will be incurred by the County.

There should be a determination of County costs related to such referrals to County Health Care agencies before considering this project.

7. There is a lack/absence

of outpatient services in Templeton and the North County area.

8. T

he proximity to surrounding neighborhoods and the location of a new 41 home project that shares the facility's rear property line.

- 9.

Significant

social effect of this facility on the area physical existence creates adverse economic or social effects on people.

Thus

a full EIR report may

is

required

.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dr. Carmelo Plateroti.
A concerned local physician and resident who loves Templeton.

Planning Commission
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, #200-P
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

November 30, 2015

Subject: **OPPOSITION to proposed behavioral health project in Templeton**

Dear Planning Commissioners:

As a Templeton resident, I am one of many residents and professionals who are very concerned about the proposed behavioral health facility in Templeton ("project") and **urge that it be DENIED**. Please address my concerns as well as those raised by TAAG, Templeton Unified School District, and several hundred residents. My concerns and questions are as follows:

- The location and scale of the project goes against good planning and common sense, and was not created by unbiased health experts. It is too close to nearby neighborhoods with children which is very concerning for residents since psychiatric patients can wander neighborhoods after a hold period for which there are no mental health resources nearby. **Issue / Question: What is the discharge strategy for patients who may wander throughout the community?**
- The project is over-sized for our county. Having nearly as many beds as Twin Cities Community Hospital, but on a much smaller lot, the project capacity far exceeds the number of beds that health experts determined are needed for SLO County (i.e. a few hundred per year), and would therefore import several thousand (nearly 7,000) patients from other counties annually. While many local Doctors also oppose the project, it will strain local resources including more congestion on Las Tablas Road, local schools finances, public safety and more. **Issue / Question: How will the county/community deal with overwhelming negative impacts?**
- The project is not focused on helping our county's needs, but is strictly a monetary-driven focus by an out-of-town investor with a "shell operating company" who is motivated to sell the project to a real estate investment trust. Any assertions by the applicant will be at the discretion of the subsequent owner -- likely a Wall Street investment firm able to litigate. **Issue: How does the County hold the applicant to the assurances made and how do they hold any buyer of the project the same? Why haven't health experts selected the best location and size instead of allowing an investor to do so?**

PLEASE OPPOSE THE PROJECT!

Sincerely,

Mike Manchak

Mike Manchak

Templeton resident (Mailing address: P.O. Box 13355, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406)

cc: Holly Phipps, County Planning & Building 805-781-1162 hphipps@co.slo.ca.us
Ramona Hedges, Planning Comm. Secretary, (805) 781-5612 rhedges@co.slo.ca.us
Templeton Area Advisory Group

Templeton Area Advisory Group
Templeton, CA 93465

November 30, 2015

San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA. 93408

RE: SUB2013-00052 CO14-0020 Billig

Subdivide a 4.89 acre parcel into 3.43 and 1.46 acre parcels at 1155 Las Tablas Road, Templeton, Calif. and a conditional use permit for the construction of a Psychiatric/ Behavioral Health hospital, and a separate Memory Care assisted living facility on each parcel, respectively.

Honorable Planning Commission:

The Templeton Area Advisory Group (TAAG) convened several meetings from August to November 2014, to address the proposed Psychiatric Hospital and Memory Care facilities. We heard from hundreds of concerned Templeton citizens, including many professionals in the medical fields. We have discussed this facility with members of Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, and Mental Health Professionals, other Mental Health facility operators, and San Luis Obispo County mental health employees. We have looked at this project from many angles and aspects and came to the following recommendation, and have outlined our concerns below:

Recommendation: *TAAG voted 7-0 to not support this project at this location.* We recommend the Planning Commission DENY the CUP for the many reasons why this is not the proper or needed facility in the proposed size, location and service level. Our concerns are detailed below:

Community Vision: TAAG has heard and analyzed community concerns about this project. We as a community recognize the need for additional levels of mental health services throughout the county. We have embraced more properly sized and focused facilities in the past, and new proposals that have recently been pre-referral reviewed. Templeton strongly believes that a more focused, properly sized facility with significantly more land, servicing seniors only, would be a better fit for the community, the mental health support services in Templeton, and the existing level of medical support in the community.

The Medical Community in Templeton came out in large numbers with a unified voice: This is not the type, size or location of a proper Mental Health facility for the County. Their reasons were many, but a few salient points were: Not designed with evidence based medical data (no professional survey or data was collected); the Community lacks social support services to support the hospital; the site is woefully inadequate to support a proper treatment program; the facility will not be supported by the infrastructure and supporting services of Templeton; the facilities will over-whelm the already existing shortage of medical professionals that Twin Cities Hospital and the North County suffer from today.

In reviewing similar service facilities located elsewhere in California, this facility is grossly negligent in land area size and design. Mental health treatment and Memory Care treatment both prescribe to large secure outdoor areas with landscaped grounds. Professionals at every level, and every other facility steadfastly stated this was a significant requirement for proper treatment. Neither of these facilities provides adequate grounds, and the Psychiatric hospital offers none.

This over-sized “catch-all” facility is NOT properly designed to serve the mental health needs of the entire county, is NOT properly placed, nor will it remain at a level of service proposed by the developer, as economics will dictate significant change to attain profitability, at the expense of the mentally ill, their families, and the Templeton community.

County demographics: The scope of this facility does not match the demographics or needs of the community or county. San Luis Obispo’s Youth population (those under 18 years of age) is 18.3% (2010 census data), yet this hospital will have 50% of 91 beds for Youth. SLO County mental health personnel estimate the County needs an additional 3

youth beds, not the 48 proposed. With the newly awarded Crisis Stabilization Unit grant funding, the establishment of that unit will greatly lower the already sub-capacity load on the current PHF Unit, thus freeing up the additional County needed beds for local referrals.

This proposed project will immediately cause significant relocation of Youth patients from outside the area. Besides not having out-patient services for these children, Templeton does not have family services for housing the families who will come with these relocations. Templeton lacks a hotel or other housing options, and no out-patient services for complete families. Furthermore, the economic impact to the small Templeton Unified School District will be significant and negative.

The Senior (over 65 years of age) demographic is 16.9% of the population. A much smaller co-services facility serving Memory Care and the Mental health needs of Seniors, would be appropriate in this area, as previously approved.

The largest demographic is the county's adult population at 64.8%, a number that this facility may more deeply serve, but a group that the community has no out-patient services to support. This population also would make up a majority of the Involuntary Psych holds, a population better served in a larger city with a full complement of services to meet their needs.

Drainage and topography concerns: This project needs to conform to the Templeton Community Design Plan. The developers need to design the project to fit the terrain of the original property which is a gentle slope from Las Tables southerly to the housing project being developed to the south. This would be in conformance with the neighboring projects to the east and west of the property. The current plan uses extensive retaining walls which TAAG has serious concerns over considering the applicant's plans to build retention/detention structures in riparian habitat, and the high water table in this area.

TAAG has serious concerns on: The nature of the lower property being used for flood control; the lack of engineering solutions to determine if proposed wall foundations will be imbedded in structurally sound bedrock; the high water levels of the 1995 March floods which, with the proposed retaining walls, will flood the low-lying houses to the west and south; the building of such structures and the buildings they will support in seismically unstable soils. We are also concerned that the retaining walls will further channelize Toad Creek increasing the speed and flow causing flooding in downstream Templeton and specifically at the Main Street culverts.

The upstream Templeton-Bethel Park flood basin is dangerously over-subscribed to in terms of flood control, and this project will further exacerbate that dangerous condition. In addition, Bethel Park's flood basin has a direct drainage pipe into this property.

TAAG enters into the record this warning of recognized hazardous existing conditions and improper recognition of future damage potential by the Developer, Land-Owner, the County Planning Department, and Templeton Community Service District (all legally responsible for these issues).

This project also needs to conform to the Templeton Community Design Plan, the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife regulations, and the U.S. Dept of Fish and Wildlife, through the protection of the Toad Creek watershed (a recognized Blue-line stream and tributary to the Salinas River). In the recent Toad Creek Drainage Update performed by the Public Works Department of San Luis County (conducted by Paavo Ogren, and David Flynn) and the Templeton Area Advisory Group (TAAG) Toad Creek Ad Hoc Committee, this property was proposed as one of several designated water retention areas with a series of retention ponds to slow flow rates. This storm-water drainage and retention matter should be taken into consideration along with current law that requires that no project can create additional storm water load to Toad Creek storm volumes, and all additional drainage must be retained on the property.

Traffic: TAAG believes the Traffic studies used to define this project are grossly understated and do not address the increased regional and multi-region traffic traveling great distances to utilize this facility. Also the increased large truck traffic, the lack of existing queuing for delivery trucks, and the peak hour traffic congestion in an Emergency vehicle critical zone, considering the location of Twin Cities hospital, will severely impact traffic, traffic safety, and pedestrian

safety in this corridor. The estimates of westerly traffic flow will push commercial traffic into residential streets with a high population of children. The small private road that will serve the large housing development south of this project will not be large enough to serve all the houses, the Psychiatric Hospital, and the “land-locked” Memory Care facility of which there is no guarantee of it being built.

Furthermore, the County did not use the State law SB743 (Steinberg, 2013) required standard for Environmental Impact Analysis. For this referral, the County’s environmental review of transportation impacts focuses only on the delay that vehicles experience at intersections and on roadway segments. That delay is measured using a metric known as “level of severity,” or LOS. The Templeton interchange at 101 & Las Tablas Road is now designated a LOS II per the County’s new Resource Management System (RMS) Guidelines. Mitigation for increased delay and traffic load does not exist, nor does it address the increase auto use and emissions and greenhouse gases.

The Planning Department is claiming a Negative Declaration on Environmental Impacts, when in reality, given the Applicant’s statements that this facility will serve persons statewide. The new “Miles driven” standard, greenhouse gas production, and other new environmental requirements of CEQA have not been addressed. The over-sized and far-reaching targeted patient pool, and the Negative Declaration ruling, encourages excessive use of transportation from not only the County area, but as the applicant states, from a state-wide draw. Several more appropriately sized, and more regional facilities would reduce this need for extensive temporary relocation, and reduce greenhouse emissions, as SB743 requires.

Under SB 743, the focus of transportation analysis shifts from driver delay to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, creation of multimodal networks and promotion of a mix of land uses. None of these required elements have been studied nor quantified. Therefore the CEQA required elements of the Transportation study have not been conducted, the Environmental review is incomplete and not minimal, and TAAG requests the Planning Commission require a full State-wide traffic miles driven assessment per State law (SB743) in a complete Environmental Impact Report.

Parking: The Memory Care facility has no parking space, NO emergency vehicle dedicated access space, and NO truck delivery space. This will require trucks to park in the middle of the drive zones of the closest parking area. This will create a major hazard to Emergency vehicle access, and a non-workable parking design, much worse than the County Planning Department’s failed design at the Trader Joe’s parking lot in west Templeton. Only this failure will do more than delay grocery shopping, it will cost lives when emergency vehicles and personnel can’t access the Memory Care facility.

Furthermore, the Hospital project delivery area is inaccessible to typical delivery trucks that serve this area. The Developer’s reassurance of small delivery vehicles is not accurate, nor controllable by that party. Much as the same failed promises at the Trader Joe’s complex.

Neither facility has public or visitor / guest parking of adequate numbers for family visits to the 50% youth population. Templeton does not need additional design failures.

Public Safety: After investigating the size and scope of this facility, TAAG members have contacted facility operators, State Mental Health professionals, and County officials from similar facilities around the state. We have also contacted law enforcement personnel here locally and in other counties that house this type of facility. From this group of professionals, TAAG has discovered that this large multi-age group facility is not properly designed, not properly weighted to the populations needs, and will not be economically viable as presented by the developer. The economic realities of this facility, as presented by these numerous professionals, will require this facility to house California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150 (3 day), 5250 (14-day), and 5270 (30 day) Psychiatric holds. These individuals will represent a high profit to the Hospital, with no out-patient services for these patients upon release into the community. The County of San Luis Obispo operated a facility such as this in a more appropriate location where out-patient services do exist. The County closed this facility for lack of economic viability.

Applicant states Templeton Fire Department Chief has reviewed and signed off on this project. This is a blatant untruth. First off, there is no current Fire Chief, secondly, the Interim Chief has seen no final plans on this project. Furthermore, the Fire Dept. does not have adequate equipment to deal with a building of this magnitude. There is also not adequate room to evacuate the rear land-locked facility, as 3 sides have no possible vehicle access, nor emergency escape routes, due to well above grade design.

Zoning: Twin Cities Hospital and the closed SLO County Mental Health Hospital are zoned Public Facility. Templeton believes this property is not properly zoned for a large Hospital. This multi-use property also once included the area to the south, now being developed as housing. The land in this application is zoned Office/Professional, yet less than 2 acres will be developed as such. The Planning Department has ignored the Communities vision of proper development, by allowing “Discretionary” development on this property. A right neither embraced by Templeton nor proper planning.

Economic impact: Templeton Unified School District is still studying the large negative fiscal impacts this facility, as proposed, will have on the school district and community. TAAG and the community do not support these legal obligations that have significant negative fiscal impacts to Templeton schools, without developer mitigation. A topic the developer specifically stated they will not contribute mitigating funds to cover, then later suggested they may assist, but offer no enforceable or bonded mitigation.

State law: State regulations require the Planning process, and therefore the Planning Commission MUST consider and address ALL of the following:

1. Community Impact and Compatibility in the community and surrounding neighborhoods.
2. Environmental Impact under CEQA guidelines, including SB743 (not followed)
3. Community Health and Public safety in that the project and its use will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public, or detrimental or injurious to nearby properties and neighborhoods.
4. Use will not generate a volume of traffic beyond the safe capacity of all current roads providing access to the project.
5. A balance of all testimony.

Given these concerns, TAAG respectfully requests the Planning Commission to deny the Conditional Use Permit to the Applicant as this project is significantly improper on this site for many technical reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

David C. La Rue, Ph.D.
Chairman
Templeton Area Advisory Group

cc: Board of Supervisors
TUSD, TCSD
TAAG Board Members

E. Murray Powell
1610 Tanager Ct.
Templeton CA 93465
805-434-0707

San Luis Obispo County
Planning Commission
976 Osos Street #200
San Luis Obispo CA 93408

December 6, 2015

Re: Proposed Templeton Acute Care Facility

My name is Murray Powell. I am a former CPA and General Manager of a large construction company. I am writing to object to the SLO County Planning Department review and recommendation to approve the above noted project. The Department's decision to accept a deficient, incomplete Mitigated Negative Declaration riddled with intentional misrepresentations and omissions of material issues and facts regarding the facility's purpose and planned operations is unacceptable and a violation of CEQA. The Planning Department report has failed to address the serious social and environmental issues that this project will inflict on SLO County.

I would like to address one of many issues that is conspicuously absent from the Planning report. The issue is the Planning Department's failure to assess and determine the effects of the facility's 91 bed capacity will have on the mental health services, the environment and social aspects of the County. Using Developer/Landowners' representations that patient treatment periods in the facility will range from 5 to 14 days (a nine day average), we have determined that approximately 3,700 patients a year will require admission in order to fully utilize the 91 bed facility. This is simple math. The project's Developers claim that this facility will provide SLO County with the acute mental treatment facility that **OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS TO TREAT OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS**. Nowhere in the Planning report is there any evidence that the Department investigated and determined whether a massive 91 bed facility is appropriate to serve SLO County residents. The Planning report documents fail to mention or consider the annual patient load required to fully utilize this facility or the adverse effects that thousands of out of county acute mentally ill individuals will have on our County in terms of increased demands for publically funded and private mental health services essentially not available in the Templeton and North County areas. There is apparently **NO** reliable surveys or other data available that supports SLO County's needs for a facility of this size in Templeton. Anne Robin, the SLO County Behavioral Health Department administrator stated in a meeting earlier this year that "there is some old survey around somewhere that we are trying to find". She also stated that "I want this facility and I don't care where it is or how big it is".

Applying National Institute of Health (NIH) data and data from other reliable sources indicates that 3/10's of 1% of the population is admitted to acute care mental hospitals each year. This results in an estimated 835 SLO County residents a year who may be subject to mental acute care hospitalization. After accounting for individuals who are not qualified for treatment at the proposed facility, there are **approximately 400 to 500 voluntary SLO County residents a year that may be eligible for treatment in this facility**. The remaining **3,200 or more patients a year will be brought into our County from areas throughout California and beyond**. Tens of thousands of SLO County residents are not eligible for treatment at this facility. An estimated 55,000 SLO adults (21 to 64 yrs) on Medi-Cal health plans will not be eligible for services. That's the law! The

uninsured will not be admitted unless they pay cash. Individuals of all ages suffering alcohol and drug addiction will not be treated by this facility. Involuntary committed mental patients will not be admitted. They will remain, along with adult Medi-Cal patients, the responsibility of the SLO County Health Agency. **A well know mental care expert in the area says that "this facility will not treat 85% of the county's residents that need these services the most".**

In March of this year the SLO Health Agency submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors that included a 3 page attachment (Exhibit 1) discussing this proposed project. Comments in that report are incorporated in the Planning report and in the Mitigate Negative Declaration submitted to the Commission. One of the claims made was that 350 SLO County patients a year have been transferred out of the county for acute mental care hospitalization. The project's supporters repeatedly use this number in their remarks to somehow justify this project. Two problems with this claim. First essentially all SLO County Health Agency patients are involuntarily committed and therefore **are not be eligible for admission** in the proposed voluntary "at will" facility. Secondly, the SLO Health Agency in responses to two public record requests (Exhibit 2) requesting confirmation of the number of SLO residents that the Agency sent to out of SLO County during the past four years to acute care mental facilities resulted in responses such as "There is no document that provides this information . . ." and "This information is not collected in a fashion that is available . . ." and other similar responses. The Health Agency in the one of these responses then provided a table, even though they claim that they do not have the data, the following information regarding apparent Agency transfers to out of county acute care facilities for four years was provided. These numbers are considerably lower than the 350 transfers a year that was claimed in the BOS report and is repeatedly used by project supporters.

- FY 2014-2015 147 Adults 86 Youths Total 233
- FY 2013-2014 156 Adults 81 Youths Total 237
- FY 2012-2013 136 Adults 82 Youths Total 218
- FY 2011-2012 144 Adults 82 Youths Total 226

The SLO Tribune reported recently that 714 patients were transferred during 2014 to acute care facilities in other counties. This number includes both voluntary and involuntary patients.

The Developers' acknowledged in the Planning report that **patients arbitrarily discharged from this facility when their maximum treatment period (10-14 days) is reached that require additional acute care will become the responsibility of the SLO County Health Agency.** The existing 16 bed PHF unit, which is legally limited to treating 16 patients, is frequently overwhelmed with the number of patients needing their help. The proposed facility will generate a substantial increased demand for SLO Health Agency services that cannot be met with a single 16 bed PHF unit. A second SLO County funded PHF unit will be required to properly treat patients turned out by the Templeton facility. The SLO Health Agency has reported the need for more Agency beds to the BOS.

The Developer cites a California Hospital Association (CHA) "survey by 15 experts" that our county needs 50 acute care beds per 100,000 residents to justify the need for a 91 bed facility. This ratio results in about 5,700 patients a year being treated in our County. Simple math again. The SLO Tribune recently reported that no other reliable studies were found that supports this 50/100,000 claim.

The California Hospital Association (CHA) also reports that the five counties that border SLO County (Monterey, Santa Barbara, Fresno, Kern and Kings) maintain an average of 10 psych beds per 100,000 ratio. Kings County and 24 other California counties have NO psych beds at all. Obviously these counties will be

shipping their mentally ill to Templeton for care. A significant number of these patients will become the responsibility of the SLO County Health Agency when the insurance payments and cash runs out and they are discharged into our community.

The Planning Department has failed to address the fact that at least 85% (3,200) of the facility's patients a year will be traveling from out of county locations to Templeton and failed to determine the negative impact and consequences that this facility's operations will have on our county. The failure to address the number of patients migrating into our county affects several significant issues in the Planning report. For example, the Developers' Air Quality Report submitted to the SLO County Air Pollution District's (APCD) for review and determination of GHG and other emission issues **did not disclose the total number of patients and the number of out of county patients and related family members and friends that will be commuting to and from Templeton each year.** The APCD advised me that their review was based on data that represents the "typical medical facility". Medical facilities in our area treat 95% or more of their patients who are local SLO residents with very short commute distances. The proposed mental facility will be treating 85 - 90% of its patients commuting from areas throughout California and beyond. Obviously the APCD report to the Planning Department inaccurately determined actual vehicle miles driven associated with the facility's operation and resulting erroneous emission determinations not in compliance with CEQA. The SLO APCD advised me that they are in the process of revising the results of their determinations to more accurately reflect this previously undisclosed out of county commute issue. This is just one example of various substantial issues concerning the facility's operations that have been overlooked or ignored during the Planning Departments review.

Obviously a full EIR report is required to fully investigate and determine the impact that a 91 bed Acute Care facility will have on SLO County in general and the north SLO county area in particular. The Commission must defer any action on this project at this time and order a full EIR report before considering it for approval.



E. Murray Powell

EXHIBIT 1

Proposed Templeton Psychiatric Hospital

Two Separate Facilities are being Proposed

- Proposed lot split to two parcels: one for a 96-bed Behavioral Health Facility (Psych Hospital); one for a 60-bed Assisted Living Facility (memory care)
- Both facilities proposed to be two story structures
- Facilities are expected to be managed by separate entities

Assisted Living Facility

- Designed to meet the needs of persons with memory impairments
- Appears to be the cause of no concerns among the neighbors

Behavioral Health Facility

- Proposed to contain 96 beds contained in four pods of approximately 20 each plus swing beds
- Approximately one quarter of the beds are anticipated to be utilized by older adults (Medicare beneficiaries), one quarter by privately insured adults (21-64 yrs old), one quarter by adolescent aged youth and one quarter by younger children. As a privately owned and operated facility, they will be inclined to treat only privately insured adults, since Medi-Cal will not pay for their services. Medi-Cal will, on the other hand, pay for medically necessary inpatient services for youth.
- The facility might be operated for only voluntary admissions, or the operators could seek and obtain (from us) designation as an LPS receiving facility, which would allow them to retain and treat 5150/5250 patients against their will, if that were determined by BH Dept. to be in the best interests of the patient(s) and/or County.
- In either case, the type of individuals who seem to be generating the most neighborhood concern are the Medi-Cal (no private insurance) adults, particularly those who may be homeless (and likely discharged to the community rather than to a more stable placement). That is the one demographic that is the least likely to be a patient in the facility. As a voluntary facility, they will have essentially no patients in this demographic. As a designated LPS receiving facility, should they pursue that status, Medi-Cal adults would be the last category of patient we would transfer from the PHF, due to the lack of a third party payor (meaning the County would foot the bill).
- More details included in the attached two page summary.

Proposed Freestanding Psychiatric Hospital in Templeton

The proposed facility in Templeton has raised many questions by community members. Safety has been a primary concern to the area neighbors.

The Behavioral Health Department (BHD) supports the development of additional inpatient psychiatric care in the County. There are two potential designations for the proposed Templeton facility; one would be "LPS Designated" by the County, meaning the facility would be able to take patients on an involuntary basis, have a locked setting, and would be required to put all the patients' rights elements into place to ensure due process. Conversely, the facility could accept only voluntary patients. This would preclude the facility from "locking" the site to prevent exit; would not have a required patients' rights duty; and would provide a stricter range of admission criteria. For the County BHD, an LPS designated facility would be more beneficial. The vast majority of individuals in need of psychiatric hospitalization come in through an involuntary hold process (5150). All of the admissions to our Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), and all of the individuals we have assisted to hospitals in other counties, have been involuntary. However, any additional beds, especially for youth and elders, would be an asset for care and efficiency.

The SLO BHD PHF treats primarily adults who are indigent or on Medi-Cal. We would continue to treat that population. The proposed Templeton facility, as a freestanding psychiatric facility, may not bill medi-cal for individual ages 21-64. For homeless individuals, individuals who are not already engaged in treatment, or individuals referred from the County jail, the PHF would remain the primary, if not sole, option for inpatient treatment. (Our PHF treated 87 individuals identified as homeless at admission in FY 13/14.)

The proposed psychiatric hospital in Templeton would fill several service gaps currently existing in San Luis Obispo County. The SLO BHD has transported over 350 individuals a year to ~~psychiatric hospitals~~ *INCORRECT* in other areas, as far reaching as Santa Rosa and Sacramento, due to inadequate capacity for treatment. These individuals include 51 minors, 161 adults, and 25 older adults. BHD drivers (PHF mental health worker aide staff) provide the transportation for these individuals to the out of county placement. Ambulance services are sometimes required, especially for individuals who are medically fragile. = 2372

Our 16 bed psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) does not have sufficient treatment space to appropriately provide the range of services that are optimal for children who tend to have longer stays than adults. Nor is there sufficient safe space for frail elders who are subjected to the behaviors of some of our adult patients. As the sole "LPS Designated" receiving unit (involuntary treatment allowed) in the County, our facility treats individuals who are part of the public safety net and most in need of acute, involuntary care. We are also responsible to treat individuals requiring restoration to competency from the jail. Some of these individuals present serious behavior management issues and require additional staffing. It is clinically more appropriate that a child or elderly person receive treatment in a better suited facility, without exposure to some of our more actively acute adults.

For individuals who are transported to out of county facilities via ambulance, a special crew is called in. It can take several hours for a crew to become available, leaving the patient either in the Emergency Department or in the PHF longer than desirable. While the ambulance company does not reduce required services locally, the impact to crews who may have to travel up to 8

hours out of county with a minor can be taxing. This also reduces their availability for other shifts.

For family members, out of county hospitalizations reduce the efficacy of family based treatments and the ability of the patient to return home with a better prepared and informed family/support group. This may lead to additional hospitalizations if stabilizing efforts are unsuccessful due to lack of preparation and/or treatment within the family setting.

General Notes about Freestanding Psychiatric Hospitals

- Licensed by the State of California
- May be JCAHO accredited
- Provides structured, secure environment for people experience a high level of distress
- The goal of the program is first to stabilize the distressing or life-threatening symptoms of people who are in throes of the acute phase of a severe mental illness. Once stabilized, the program helps individuals realize their potential for creating the lives they desire for themselves, helping them transition back into the community as quickly as clinically appropriate.
- Funded through private insurance, Medicare, and most managed care plans.
- Medical funding NOT available for patients ages 21-64

Treatment Services include

- Comprehensive evaluation and risk assessment
- Symptom management skills training
- Crisis planning and prevention
- Supportive counseling (group and individual)
- Medication administration, education and training
- Independent living skills training
- Dietary consultation
- Discharge planning and linkage to community support

Admission Criteria

- Individuals experiencing an acute exacerbation of symptoms of mental illness who require 24-hour supervision and/or assistance with psychiatric recovery
- Must be referred by a physician
- Most admissions are voluntary, however, a Freestanding Psychiatric Hospital may become designated to provide involuntary services

These facilities cannot accept individuals who:

- Have complex medical problems that cannot be treated on an outpatient basis
- Have a primary diagnosis of drug or alcohol abuse, or an eating disorder (but can be co-occurring)
- Are a registered sex offender

EXHIBIT 2



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

2180 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
805-781-4719 • FAX 805-781-1273

Jeff Hamm
Health Agency Director

Anne Robin
Behavioral Health Administrator

June 11, 2015

E. Murray Powell
1610 Tanager Ct.
Templeton, CA 93465

Re: PRA Request Pertaining to PHF Unit Capacity Issues

Dear Mr. Powell:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 3, 2015 requesting additional information regarding Behavioral Health services in the County, which will be treated as a Public Records Act request. Below, please find answers pursuant to the Act to the requests you submitted.

We will also, in addition to the requirements of the public records act request, endeavor to provide information as available and pertinent.

1. Please confirm that, if the Templeton facility is an "At Will" facility, the County's involuntary patients would not be eligible for admission to that facility as stated in your March 17th report."

It is correct that if the facility in Templeton is "at will", county involuntary patients will not be eligible for admission.

2. Provide an accurate count of total admissions to the PHF unit and the total number of out of county transfers for the four age groups indicated in your spreadsheet analysis for the fiscal years ended 6/201, 6/2103, 6/2014, and 6/2015 (year to date).

There is no document which provides this information without considerable data mining. You have been provided information in prior correspondence. The information already provided was refined as available. You received information which is not generally collected, and therefore, as we explained in our emails, was either incomplete or an estimate. The information you were provided with came from hand counts of logs, not electronically generated records.

3. Provide accurate counts for each year indicated in 2. above that excludes admissions and out of county transfers of those patients diagnosed with drug and alcohol issues and patients that were transferred due to physical (not mental health) issues.

This information is not available without individual record review. However, due to the regulations regarding admission to the PHF, no patient with a primary drug and alcohol condition would have been admitted, therefor no transfers for this condition would have been made. The same applies for primary physical health conditions.

4. Provide the number of Cal Poly and Cuesta College students included in your counts for each year and age group.

Similarly, this information is not collected in a fashion that is available without reviewing individual records; nor is it collected definitively.

5. Provide the average number of days transfers were treated in out of county mental facilities for each age category for each year shown on your spreadsheet.

This information is not available in a record that is readily obtainable. The County mental health plan would only track payments for hospitalizations for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in out of county placements. Due to the details of treatment authorizations, lack of payment for day of discharge, and other concerns related specifically to Medi-Cal, the payment information would not adequately represent lengths of stay. The County has no responsibility for tracking or payment for individuals with private insurance who are placed in out of county psychiatric care.

6. Provide the number of out of county transfers for each year and age category that required follow-up mental health out-patient services provided by the BHD and any other county agencies.

This information may be available; however, it is not available in an existing document or report. Secondly, if the "other county agencies" are not a contracted agency providing medically necessary treatment for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, the information is either not available or will not be complete.

7. Provide the details of discussions that the SLO BHD or other County agencies have had with the promoters of the Templeton facility especially regarding the designation of the facility as an LPS facility.

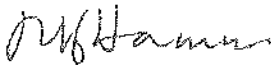
Under the Public Records Act, you are only entitled to have access to written records; no summaries of oral conversations will be provided to you under your Public Records Act request. Attached is the only responsive document concerning communications between the Behavioral Health Department and the owners of the proposed project regarding the facility serving as an LPS facility.

8. Please confirm our understanding that a second SLO County 16 bed PHF unit is legally allowed if located at a different location than the existing unit within the county.

This is correct.

As noted above, some responsive records are not available except through data mining. Per Government Code section 6253.9, you would be required to pay for all staff time and programming required to do this data mining. This process would also take a significant amount of time to complete. If you intend to pursue your Public Records Act request and are willing to pay the expenses required for programming and wait the necessary time to get additional records responsive to your request as outlined above, please clarify the scope of your request as discussed above and confirm your willingness to pay for any records that will be provided. The Department will then begin the necessary programming to extract the information we are able to provide in response to your request.

Sincerely,



Jeff Hamm
Health Agency Director

c: County Counsel



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY

2180 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
805-781-4719

Jeff Hamm
Health Agency Director

October 21, 2015

E. Murray Powell
1610 Tanager Ct.
Templeton, CA 93465

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. Powell:

The following is provided in response to your request for information:

1. Please confirm that, if the Templeton facility is an "At Will" facility, the County's involuntary patients would not be eligible for admission to that facility as stated in your March 17th report."

It is correct that if the facility in Templeton is "at will", county involuntary patients will not be eligible for admission.

2. Provide an accurate count of total admissions to the PHF unit and the total number of out of county transfers for the four age groups indicated in your spreadsheet analysis for the fiscal years ended 6/201, 6/2103, 6/2014, and 6/2015 (year to date).

There is no document which provides this information without considerable data mining. You have been provided information in prior correspondence. The information already provided was refined as available. You received information which is not generally collected, and therefore, as we explained in our emails, was either incomplete or an estimate. The information you were provided with came from hand counts of logs, not electronically generated records.

3. Provide accurate counts for each year indicated in 2. above that excludes admissions and out of county transfers of those patients diagnosed with drug and alcohol issues and patients that were transferred due to physical (not mental health) issues..

This information is not available without individual record review. However, due to the regulations regarding admission to the PHF, no patient with a primary drug and alcohol condition would have been admitted, therefore no transfers for this condition would have been made. The same applies for primary physical health conditions.

4. Provide the number of Cal Poly and Cuesta College students included in your counts for each year and age group.

This information is not collected in a fashion that is available without reviewing individual records, nor is it a data element specifically tracked in our data system.

5. Provide the average number of days transfers were treated in out of county mental facilities for each age category for each year shown on your spreadsheet.

This information is not available in a record that is readily obtainable. The County mental health plan

would only track payments for hospitalizations for Medi-Cal beneficiaries in out of county placements. Due to the details of treatment authorizations, lack of payment for day of discharge, and other concerns related specifically to Medi-Cal, the payment information would not adequately represent lengths of stay. The County has no responsibility for tracking or payment for individuals with private insurance who are placed in out of county psychiatric care.

6. Provide the number of out of county transfers for each year and age category that required follow-up mental health out-patient services provided by the BHD and any other county agencies.

This information may be available; however, it is not available in an existing document or report. Secondly, if the "other county agencies" are not a contracted agency providing medically necessary treatment for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, the information is either not available or will not be complete.

7. Provide the details of discussions that the SLO BHD or other County agencies have had with the promoters of the Templeton facility especially regarding the designation of the facility as an LPS facility.

Under the Public Records Act, you are only entitled to have access to written records; no summaries of oral conversations will be provided to you under your Public Records Act request. Attached is the only responsive document concerning communications between the Behavioral Health Department and the owners of the proposed project regarding the facility serving as an LPS facility.

8. Please confirm our understanding that a second SLO County 16 bed PHF unit is legally allowed if located at a different location than the existing unit within the county.

This is correct.

However, in the light of your ongoing request for updated information, we can provide you with the following:

PHF Admissions (all payor sources)	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012
Adults:	972	1033	1132	1073
Youth:	150	176	169	143
Total:	1122	1209	1301	1216

Transfers to locked placement (all payor sources)				
Adults:	147	156 Hand count	136 Hand count	144 Hand count
Youth:	86	81 Hand Count	82 Hand Count	82 Hand count
Total:	233	237	218	226

All ages 2014-2015	Total # TARs (Medi-Cal only, TAR facilities only)	137
All ages 2014-2015	Average length of stay in out-of-county hospital (Medi-Cal only, TAR facilities only.)	5.66 days

Some of the variances in data you may notice are due to several factors. One is hand-counting of transfers as opposed to our current (2014/2015) data which is in our electronic health record system. Some of the prior year data in our electronic health record system was not validated as the data sets

were still in development. As you can see however, during each fiscal year we have over 200 individuals **that we know of** who received care in out of county psychiatric facilities. The number provided to the Tribune of "275 to 314" transfers was based on the previously reported hand counts of calendar year logs compared to electronic record fiscal year counts. We acknowledge that the data has not been consistent, as we have not been required to track all out-of-county psychiatric placements. This is the best information available given the constraints.

As noted above, some responsive records are not available except through data mining. Per Government Code section 6253.9, you would be required to pay for all staff time and programming required to do this data mining. This process would also take a significant amount of time to complete. If you intend to pursue your Public Records Act request and are willing to pay the expenses required for programming and wait the necessary time to get additional records responsive to your request as outlined above, please clarify the scope of your request as discussed above and confirm your willingness to pay for any records that will be provided. The Department will then begin the necessary programming to extract the information we are able to provide in response to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Hamm", written in a cursive style.

Jeff Hamm
Health Agency Director



Fw: Proposed 91 Bed Mental Health Facility by Vizion Health , LLC.

Vicki Shelby to: Ramona Hedges

12/07/2015 11:48 AM

Vicki M. (Shelby) Fogleman
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St., D430
San Luis Obispo CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful " - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been " - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 11:48 AM -----

From: Marie Roth <mariealise@outlook.com>
To: "hhipps@co.slo.ca.us" <hhipps@co.slo.ca.us>, "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>, "cmckee@co.slo.ca.us" <cmckee@co.slo.ca.us>, "hmliller@co.slo.ca.us" <hmliller@co.slo.ca.us>, "jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us" <jbrennan@co.slo.ca.us>, "jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us" <jcaffee@co.slo.ca.us>, "shredder@newtimesslo.com" <shredder@newtimesslo.com>, "tstrickland@thetribunenews.com" <tstrickland@thetribunenews.com>, Scott Brennan <scott@accesspublishing.com>, Tom O'Malley <tomomalley@charter.net>, "editor@atascaderonews.com" <editor@atascaderonews.com>, "scott@pasoroblesdailynews.com" <scott@pasoroblesdailynews.com>
Date: 12/07/2015 11:45 AM
Subject: Proposed 91 Bed Mental Health Facility by Vizion Health , LLC.

Greetings planners and officials of SLO County ,

Regarding the proposed 91 bed acute care mental health facility proposed for the community of Templeton; I am in opposition to this particular project and I will do my best within three minutes to illustrate why. My understanding of this subject comes from my own experience, talking with members of the medical & mental health care community as well as attending the Family Orientation Class conducted by Transitions Mental Health Association.

When my daughter was 18, she had a situation where the mobile crisis unit had to take her from Templeton to SLO County Mental Health . Once processed at the facility located at the old General Hospital I was informed that because she was insured she would have to go to a private provider. Of course it is no secret that there are none available in SLO County: Bakersfield or Ventura were the closest choices. Imagine my anxiety level.

Consider, even if 6 to 7, private pay, ***in-county*** patients (about 400 per year) are to be transported to this proposed facility in Templeton on any given weekend□ .then who will

be occupying those other 84 beds per week? And remember this is a psych treatment facility doing **nothing** for drug, alcohol, medi-cal, homeless or outpatient services for members of our own community. It is my limited understanding that the majority of 5150/5250's, happening mostly on the weekends, are transient or college aged students with an underlying drug or alcohol problem. This facility will do nothing to help them. Our County Mental Health triage center will not be able to send most of their patients to this proposed facility.

Side note- SLO County has a grave shortage of psychiatrists, there are close to none in Templeton.

There is the potential for 3200 people from outside SLO county to be coming to the little town of Templeton for psychiatric treatment. School aged children (1800 of the 3200 total) from outside the county will require Templeton School District provide the educational needs for these kids!? It can't even provide bus service for its current students! How in the world will they be able to meet these requirements without placing a burden upon the students and families who already pay taxes that barely support **THEIR OWN** community?

"We know in working with these children and their family members (that) it's very difficult for families to travel to have to go see them, or figure out how to keep their continued care with their primary care physician here," said Jill Bolster-White, executive director of the nonprofit Transitions Mental Health Association in San Luis Obispo.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/investigations/article39097128.html> Speaking on sending children outside out county to other facilities such as Bakersfield or Ventura .

Let's look at this in reverse— It is a burden to make families have to travel long distances while dealing with these types of situations. Why would we make families travel to Templeton from Salinas, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara, Ventura and possibly beyond? If I would have had to travel to Bakersfield or Ventura it would have been a financial & mental disaster for me & my family. I agree that it is best to keep patients near their place of origin. We need to take care of our own people in our own community!

Additionally, SLO Sheriff states this will cause the need for additional law enforcement and staffing□ .again more burden to the community of Templeton in the form of taxpayer \$\$ as well as the compromised security of their community.

SLO County representatives as well as residents, I challenge you to meet the needs of **our own community** members!

****Support the efforts of Transitions Mental Health in their endeavor to open a care facility in SLO where resources abound.**

****Why is General Hospital not considered as a place for this type of facility? If your answer is that it's isn't profitable□ .then let's take another look at what is being proposed in Templeton, how will that be any more profitable? It won't, but that isn't the point. The owner of this property is seemly becoming more desperate as time goes on to put anything on that property even if it compromises the residential community that surrounds it. It's better suited for an ice skating rink than a psych facility!**

This proposal makes zero sense for small community of Templeton ; I urge this commission to deny the project of a Mental Health Facility operated by Vizion health LLC in Templeton, in its entirety.

3 minutes are up....but there's more!

*Vizion Health LLC does not have the experience necessary to operate this facility . This statement in the Tribune from property owners , Harvey and Melanie Billig, is truly ridiculous. "Mark's approach is not like the biggies in the country but a very local approach," Melanie Billig said. "Harvey and I don't want a larger corporation — not cookie-cutter like everything else in the country but something that fits the need for SLO County. We tried to find an operator who cares about something like that." Vizion Health, first incorporated in 2011 in Louisiana, where Schneider lives, doesn't have any clients yet, Schneider confirmed."

How in the heck can they make a statement like this if Vizion Health has NO CLIENTS??? Since 2011 no less!? And just because they have "*tried* " to find a corporation that cares about our community does not mean they "*have* " found it. And finally how does this exactly "fit the needs for SLO County"?

Read more here:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article39719004.html#storylink=cpy>

*This facility will do NOTHING to help solve the problem of the shortage of Mental Health Care Professionals in our county .

*This type of facility is unprecedented & untested anywhere in the country .

*Proposed to be a non-secure facility meaning patients can come and go at will ? How is that possible when dealing the psychiatric patients ?

*With the imposition of Affordable Health Care Act I propose that SLO County consider making changes to the current County Mental Health Administration to be able to accept AHC insurance since all Americans are now mandated to have coverage according to the law. Would the AHC in essence force the change in the county system due to every American having health care? Let's ask that question.

And finally this does nothing to help our Military Veterans of which there are over 28,000 residing in SLO county.

Again, I ask you to consider helping the needs of our local residents before we invite over 3200 outside residents to SLO County for acute psychiatric treatment .

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Roth, Templeton CA



Fw: Proposed 91 Bed Psychiatric Facility

Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges

Sent by: Vicki Shelby

12/07/2015 10:53 AM

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 10:53 AM -----

From: Fred Russell <fnfrussell@gmail.com>
To: Frank Mecham <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 12/04/2015 02:33 PM
Subject: Proposed 91 Bed Psychiatric Facility

Hello Frank Mecham,

Please see attached letter which lists some of our concerns about the proposed facility.

Thank you,

Fred Russell



Consequences.pdf



Proposed mental health facility in Templeton

caroline Janney to: rhedges

12/05/2015 04:21 PM

Caroline Janney
725 Rosebay Way
Templeton, CA 93465

To the Planning Commission:

I am opposed to the size and location of the mental health facility proposed for Templeton by Dr Harvey Billig.

Templeton is a small community of approximately 7,500 residents. The proposal is for a 91 bed hospital. I do not feel that Templeton has the infrastructure to support this size facility. We have a Volunteer Fire Department and a Sheriff's Department that has 120 square miles of jurisdiction with only one officer assigned for the night shift. If a call should come in from the mental health facility, it could take a considerable amount of time for them respond to the request. The facility will be located in a residential area with no buffer zone. It will also greatly increase traffic and congestion on Las Tablas Rd. and greatly increase demands on the water supply of Templeton. What will happen after it is turned over to Vizion Health, a company that has never operated anything?

I do feel that San Luis Obispo County needs a mental health facility, something that is much smaller and possibly located in Old County General where there are many more supporting services near by for after care.

Sincerely,

Caroline Janney



Fw: Proposed Mental Health Facility
Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

12/07/2015 10:46 AM

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430
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----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 10:46 AM -----

From: Bill Munde <bmundee@abo.com>
To: "fmecham@co.slo.ca.us" <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, "bgibson@co.slo.ca.us" <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, "ahill@co.slo.ca.us" <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>, "lcompton@co.slo.ca.us" <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>, "darnold@co.slo.ca.us" <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>
Cc: Bill Munde <bmundee@abo.com>
Date: 12/07/2015 10:44 AM
Subject: Proposed Mental Health Facility

12/5/2015

Re: Mental Health Facility in Templeton

Dear Board of Supervisors;

As a long-time Templeton and County resident, I am strongly opposed to the size and location of the newly proposed 91 bed facility being planned in Templeton. As a developer myself, I understand the desire of the owner to build such a large facility. More beds equals more revenue. In fact, I own a building currently being used as a mental health facility. It is in Sanger, CA, and it only has 15 beds. It is a very profitable business.

From what I've read, Vizion Health LLC is to operate this newly proposed facility, but with a little research, this company has been found to be just a shell company without any operational experience. So it seems that the owners/developers of this new facility, want to permit as large of a facility as possible. Once the beds are filled, they will sell this property immediately.

As a developer, I am OK with this in most cases. However, in this situation, the customers to visit this facility will mainly come from outside of our county, and it is not fair to put the burden of support on the citizens of Templeton. Most cities would object to having this type of facility in their backyard and I can understand that. It is bringing people with mental illness into their neighborhoods. Therefore, these facilities are very difficult to get permitted. Having said that, I also feel each city needs to take care of their own population. What I am in favor of, is a facility commensurate with the needs of this county and those individuals needing psychiatric help. Limit this facility to 15-20 beds. If the developers wish to build a larger facility to make it work economically, then move it to a larger city.

In conclusion, the size and scope of the facility is too great and only serves to benefit the owner/developer. Please review the scope of the project with the thought of how this project will benefit the citizens and taxpayers of Templeton.

Sincerely,
Bill Munde

To Our Board of Supervisors,

December 5, 2015

There is so much written, both pro and con, over the development of the Behavioral Health Hospital, that I feel there is little left to say other than this is a facility which is so desperately needed for our county.

There are those who argue that greed is driving this project and that homes in the surrounding area will suffer a loss in value. Yes, it is a privately funded project, but as we are all too painfully aware, public funds are just not available for a mental health facility of this dimension. The myth that home values will plummet is negated by reports from realtors in similar communities that home appraisals and sales remain constant. Other communities throughout California with behavioral health hospitals do not document any problems with patients who seek the services offered as they are voluntary, insured and seek support, i.e. Vista del Mar in Ventura.

Ian Parkinson, our highly esteemed sheriff, has signed off, saying that he sees no law enforcement impediments to the project. Jeff Hamm, Director of SLO's Health Department has also underwritten the mental health hospital, saying that it will offer not only much needed interventions, but will service a population, children and adolescents, that the PFH is not equipped to best handle. There will be no associated costs to Templeton Unified: see California Education Code Sec. 48206.3, defining ADA. Children and adolescents will have a stay of no longer than 10 days, in line with noted education code. In addition, the League of Women voters has publically voiced support as has the American Association of University Women.

We all know that intervention is financially and morally a much better proposition than waiting until a mental health problem becomes so severe that extended, and expensive, treatment becomes necessary. Finally, at least 300 or more will find employment as a result of this much needed, thus increasing community stability, not threatening it.

This is a plea from the heart; I have a family member who has been diagnosed with a severe mental health disorder and if we had had a facility like that which is proposed, her frustrating, confusing and painful experiences might well have not led to several suicide attempts. We were unable to support her as hospitalization was several hundred miles away, a situation which only increased our family distress and her suffering. We know that hospitalization does not offer a cure, however many of these disorders and their symptoms do go into remission with the proper psychiatric attention, treatment and medication, which is what this hospital offers.

Please don't let the fear tactics of a few or stigma towards those with mental health issues deter you from making the best decision for our community.

Respectfully,

Mardi Geredes
Atascadero

P.S. Three of the best sources of fact-based information as published in the Tribune are by Cal Poly Professor Emeritus Zaf Iqbal; a four-part investigative report beginning October 11th by Tonya Strickland, Tribune reporter; and Tribune editorial, "Plan for mental health hospital would fill a void in county."



Fw: Templeton psych unit proposal
Frank Mecham to: Ramona Hedges
Sent by: Vicki Shelby

12/07/2015 10:54 AM

Frank R. Mecham
District 1 Supervisor
1055 Monterey St. Rm. D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5450

FMecham@co.slo.ca.us

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 12/07/2015 10:53 AM -----

From: Jim Cartland <jpcartland@gmail.com>
To: rhedges@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, darnold@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, lcompton@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 12/04/2015 04:02 PM
Subject: Templeton psych unit proposal

We realize that there is a shortage of mental health care, inpatient and outpatient, in the county and that the county could utilize a 15-20 bed facility to handle county needs. Such a facility would optimally be placed in a location that would provide best access for patients, be convenient for their families and have post discharge care available. Such a facility should be built and run by personnel that are experienced in mental health care and mental health care facilities.

The proposed facility in Templeton plans for 91 beds. This far exceeds the local need and would require importation of mentally ill patients from around the state or country. Keep in mind that these patients are ill enough to require hospitalization and would likely have schizophrenia, bipolar disorders or combination of these mental illnesses. The average hospital stay is planned at 9-10 days, coincidentally(?) the limit of Obamacare mandates for mental illness insurance coverage. 9-10 days is not adequate to treat these conditions as these are chronic illnesses. These illnesses are not like appendicitis that can be treated and discharged in a predictable manner.

The proposed facility would be an "open" facility. This means that patients can come and go as they please. They are mentally ill which by definition means that they make poor decisions and do not think clearly. Otherwise they would not need hospitalization. Patients would be free to come and go as they please and would do so wandering into the surrounding residential community (41 condos are being built immediately next door). This is a small community therefor citizens would have a relatively higher risk of adverse encounters. There would be no requirement that patients return home after discharge. Our experiences, as part of our medical training in psychiatric inpatient units, are that discharged patients and patients that leave against medical advice tend to congregate around these facilities. Many are or become homeless.

The proposed facility plans to have approximately 50% of its beds slated for pediatric use. The

Templeton Unified School District would be required to provide individual teaching plans and teachers for these students (estimated 1800 students/year with 9-10 day stays). This would financially and logistically overwhelm our local school district.

The proposed facility would be a bad idea for our community even if the corporation planning and running the facility was experienced and excellent. The Vizion "corporation" planning to build the facility is a shell corporation with no experience. This greatly increases the already high risk to our community. "Promises" and "intents" that they have stated or will state to assuage our concerns are not reliable.

We are concerned that allowing such a facility in our community would result in changes that could not be recoverable. Templeton is a great community that we would like preserved. Please do not allow this potentially disastrous facility to be built.

Sincerely,

James P. Cartland, MD

Pamela M. Cartland, MD